

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03576 151318Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 SY-05 /037 W  
-----097515 152106Z /46  
R 151209Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3576

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EINV, ET  
SUBJ: SINGER SEWING MACHINE EXPROPRIATION

THE EMBASSY IS SENDING THE FOREIGN OFFICE A NOTE INQUIRING ABOUT THE STATUS OF SINGER SEWING MACHINE'S ETHIOPIAN REGISTERED BRANCH AND WILL REPORT IF AND WHEN ANY REPLY IS RECEIVED. IN THE MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE EMBASSY'S FILES CONTAIN A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FORMER REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AND COL ABERRA AYENE, CHIEF OF THE ADDIS ABABA CITY POLICE, DATED MAY 23, 1978. COL ABERRA TOLD THE RSO ON MAY 19 THAT HE HAD A BROTHER, BERHANU MULETE, WHO WAS AT THE TIME REGIONAL MANAGER FOR EAST AFRICA OF THE SINGER CORPORATION. COL ABERRA SAID HIS BROTHER HAD GONE TO NAIROBI JUST PRIOR TO NATIONALIZATION OF THE SINGER BRANCH IN ETHIOPIA. QUOTE: IN FACT, THE COL FELT THE NATIONALIZATION WAS THE RESULT OF JEALOUSY DIRECTED TOWARD HIS BROTHER. HIS BROTHER WAS CALLED TO NEW YORK SHORTLY BEFORE THE NATIONALIZATION. IT WAS THOUGHT HE WOULD RETURN WITH A PROMOTION. HOWEVER, HE WAS PROMOTED TO REGIONAL MANAGER AND TRANSFERRED TO NAIROBI. THIS ALLEGEDLY ANGERED SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES WHO IN TURN STARTED A CAMPAIGN OF LIES AGAINST HIM AND THE SINGER COMPANY ENDING IT ITS NATIONALIZATION. END QUOTE.

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CHAPIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ADDIS03576  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780334-0157  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SINGER SEWING MACHINE EXPROPRIATION THE EMBASSY IS SENDING THE FOREIGN OFFICE A NOTE INQUIRING ABOUT THE STATUS OF SINGER SEWING MACHINE'S ETHIOP  
**TAGS:** EINV, PGOV, ET, SINGER CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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